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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT 1. Gruppenfuhrungsstab in Kochstedt
 2. Gruppenkommandos of the KVP

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. [redacted] a so-called KVP Gruppenfuhrungsstab was located in Kochstedt near Dessau. This headquarters controlled the training activities of all Gruppenkommandos established to date. This control was previously exercised from Karlshorst by Lieutenant General Kurt Wagner, chief VP operations section. The new Gruppenfuhrungsstab was organized about late December 1952 in Kochstedt.

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2. A total of about 65 officers were assigned to this Gruppenfuhrungsstab. All of them had received training at high echelon service schools or technical schools. About half of them were former German Army officers. Officers of this headquarters known to source by last name, rank and assignment included:

Colonel Johnne Previously chief of the training
department

Colonel Christiansen Previously inspector of the tank troops

Lieutenant Colonel Witt Previously deputy inspector of
artillery troops.

Major Schultheis Previously deputy to the chief of the
inspection department

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Major Stauf | Formerly assigned to the HVKVP at Karlshorst |
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A number of Soviet officers were attached to the new headquarters.¹

CLASSIFICATION

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3. On 7 February 1953, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese officers were assigned to the Gruppenfuhrungsstab. These officers who wore VP uniforms or Soviet uniforms, visited all major KVP units. They went for several days to the Gruppenkommando Nord and its assigned divisions. Their mission allegedly is to inform high ranking VP officers on combat experience.

4. The Gruppenkommandos, which previously were not to be mentioned in the official correspondence of the KVP, are now referred to without code designations. There is a Gruppenkommando Nord in Passau, a Gruppenkommando Suedwest in Erfurt and a Gruppenkommando West in Halle. The Gruppenkommando West was previously referred to as K. 2

5. [redacted] the KVP would soon be given military jurisdiction of its own. The preparations for the establishment of such a jurisdiction had allegedly already been made.

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6. After 15 February 1953, classified material and information was stamped "Geheim" and "Geheime Kommandosache" as was the custom in the former German Armed Forces. The designations "Vertrauliche Verschlusssachen" and "Geheime Verschlusssache" are only used in communications with civil agencies.

1. [redacted] Comment. This information cannot be verified for lack of comparable information. However, Lieutenant General Wagner, Colonel John and Colonel Christiansen were previously known to hold the assignments mentioned [redacted]

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2. [redacted] Comment. There are numerous indications that the headquarters of a new Armeegruppe will be established in Erfurt. The headquarters of another Armeegruppe is believed to be located in Leipzig or Dresden.

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